

At page 54, line 15, insert the following two paragraphs describing new Figures 18 and 19:

FIG. 18 depicts a perspective view of a fibrous nonwoven web 60 comprising apertures 61, as in FIG. 14, except that the apertured web 60 is now shown joined to a textured basesheet 1 and the assembly is in contact with an underlying absorbent core 5. Apertures 61 in the nonwoven web 60 are substantially aligned with the depressed regions 4 of the basesheet 1. The nonwoven web 60 serves as a hydrophobic matter 2 on the most elevated portions 3 of the basesheet 1.

FIG. 19 depicts a cross-sectional view of an apertured basesheet 1 similar to that of the basesheet 1 of FIG. 5 except that the perforations 27 (apertures in the basesheet) have been formed in a manner that creates protrusions 70 extending from the lower portion of the basesheet and surrounding the apertures 70. The protrusions 70 can be wet resilient if formed in a moist state and dried.

¶ Due to changes in pagination of the specification required by the foregoing insertions, a substitute
§ (clean) copy of the entire specification reflecting all the foregoing amendments is enclosed.

In The Drawings

Add new Figures 18 and 19, enclosed.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-8; 10-15 and 18-39 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed thereby. Claims 9, 16 and 17 are retained.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) [The absorbent web of claim 1 further comprising hydrophobic matter] An absorbent web having a dry feel when wet comprising:

- a) an inherently hydrophilic basesheet comprising papermaking fibers and having an upper surface and a lower surface, said upper surface having elevated and depressed regions further characterized by a Wet Compressed Bulk of about 5 or greater; and
- b) hydrophobic matter deposited preferentially on the elevated regions of the upper surface of said basesheet and on a portion of the lower surface of said basesheet.

Please add the following new claims:

40. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web is a wet-laid tissue sheet.

41. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web is an airlaid structure.

42. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 further characterized by a Wet Springback Ratio of about 0.7 or greater.

43. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein the hydrophobic matter is discontiguous.

44. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 further characterized by a Rewet value of about 0.65 g or less and a Normalized Rewet value of about 0.6 or less.

45. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said web has an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.2 mm or greater, an In-Plane Permeability of at least 0.5×10^{-10} m², and a Wet Compressed Bulk of about 5 cc/g or greater.

46. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said hydrophobic matter comprises synthetic fibers fixedly attached to the upper surface of said basesheet such that about 50% or less of the surface area of the basesheet is covered with the synthetic fibers.

47. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 further comprising hydrophobic matter on a portion of the lower surface of said basesheet.

48. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web has an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.2 mm or less while dry and an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.3 mm or greater when wetted to a moisture content of 100%.

49. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web has a wet:dry tensile ratio of at least 0.1.

50. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said elevated regions comprise from 5 to 300 protrusions per square inch having a characteristic height of at least 0.2 mm relative to said depressed regions.

51. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein at least 30% of the upper surface of said basesheet remains substantially free of hydrophobic matter and said web has a Rewet value of 0.6 g or less.

52. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein essentially all of said hydrophobic matter resides above the 50% material line of a characteristic cross-section of said web.

53. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 further comprising superabsorbent particles attached to said web.

54. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web is further characterized by a wet:dry tensile strength ratio of at least about 0.1 or greater and a Wet Springback Ratio of about 0.55 or greater.

55. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 further characterized by a Rewet value of about 0.65 g or less and a Normalized Rewet value of about 0.6 or less, said web further comprising about 20% or greater by weight high yield pulp fibers.

56. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said basesheet further comprises apertures and said lower surface of the basesheet further comprises wet-resilient protrusions adjacent said aperture.

A clean version of the pending claims is attached and made a part hereof.